

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GOP POLITICAL TRAINING SEMINAR

SUMMARY: GOP HELD POLITICAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES MAY 14-16 AT FORT CIMMARON. OCCASION WAS USED TO ONCE AGAIN REITERATE 1977 AS DEADLINE FOR REACHING ACCORD ON TREATY. ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER NEWSPAPER FOR PANAMA WAS ALSO PROPOSED BY TORRIJOS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP HELD ANOTHER IN ITS SERIES OF TRAINING SEMINARS MAY 13-16 AT FORT CIMMARON. BETWEEN 120 AND 200 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ATTENDED THE 3-DAY SEMINAR AND HEARD SPEECHES BY BRIG. GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, VICE PRESIDENT GONZALEZ, CABINET MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION.

2. VICE PRESIDENT GERARDO GONZALEZ, THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE OPENING SESSION, SPOKE ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, STATING THE END OF 1976 OR THE BEGINNING OF 1977, OR NO TREATY AT ALL. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO DECIDE UPON A TREATY WHICH WILL BE JUST AND ONE THAT INTERPRETS THE ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA "OR THERE WILL BE NO TREATY". REFERRING TO THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN PANAMA, GONZALEZ

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REVIEWED THE PAST PERFORMANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN

THE COUNTRY AND CALLED FOR CREATION OF ORGANIZATIONS AT STATE AND AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION LEVEL WHICH WOULD DISSEMINATE THE POLITICAL LINE OF GOP AT LOWER LEVELS.

3. THE SPEECHES OF TWO YOUNG PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD (GN) OFFICERS THE SAME MAY 14 SESSION ALSO RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS. CAPTAIN ARISTIDES VALDONEDO DELIVERED AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE GN WHICH DESCRIBED THE GN AS A TOOL OF THE OBLIGARCHY BEFORE THE 1968 REVOLUTION. CAPTAIN FERNANDO QUEZADA DESCRIBED THE GN'S ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, AND ESPECIALLY THE GN'S ROLE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.

4. BRIG. GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS CLOSED THE SEMINAR WITH AN ADDRESS WHICH ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NEGLECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ENTERPRISES IN FAVOR OF LARGE BUSINESSES. SPECIFICALLY HE NOTED THAT THE LABOR CODE MAY ACTUALLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE GROWTH OF SMALL BUSINESSES. TORRIJOS ANALYZED THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE IN GOVERNMENT AND WARNED AGAINST INSENSITIVITY TOWARD PUBLIC CRITICISM. HE INVITED THOSE PRESENT TO ORGANIZE AND PUBLISH A NEWSPAPER TO BE CALLED "MY GOVERNMENT" WHICH WOULD PUBLISH CRITICISM AND OPINIONS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF WOULD PROVIDE MONEY TO START THE NEWSPAPER.

5. COMMENT: GOP TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS SEMINAR TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN THE TIME LIMIT FOR REACHING A TREATY TO WHICH IT IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED--A POINT WHICH HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC EMPHASIS SINCE AQUILINO BOYD TOOK OVER AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

TORRIJOS ALSO MADE USE OF OCCASION TO PROPOSE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER NEWSPAPER, AN IDEA APPARENTLY DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY AT HIGH LEVELS OF GOP. PUBLICATION WOULD SERVE AS SOUNDING BOARD FOR COMPLAINTS AND OPINION ABOUT OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT, AND AS SAFETY VALVE FOR CRITICISM WHICH GOP FEELS IS PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT NEEDS TO BE VENTILATED.

GONZALEZ

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